

**Amendment and Response**

Serial No.: 09/551,706

Confirmation No.: 2678

Filed: 18 April 2000

**For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR PACKAGING AND STORING MOISTURE-SENSITIVE PRODUCTS  
IN RESEALABLE POUCHES**

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**Amendments to the Claims**

- Claims 3, 24, 33-37, and 47-60 were previously canceled by Applicants.
- Claims 25-27, 38-42, 44-46, and 62 were canceled by the Examiner after Appeal.
- Claims 4, 28-32, and 43 (which are indicated as allowable) are herein canceled.
- Claims 63-68 are added herein and include subject matter of allowed claims 28-32 and 43.

- After entry of the newly-presented claims, the pending claims will be claims 1, 2, 5-23, 61, and 63-68. The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (Original) An apparatus, comprising:  
a pouch comprising a first end, a second end, and a pouch length extending therebetween, wherein the pouch further defines an interior; and  
a moisture-sensitive product having a continuous length, the product being folded into a packaged configuration comprising a plurality of sections arranged within the interior and along the pouch length, each section comprising at least two folds and a segment spanning therebetween, the segment also extending along the pouch length.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pouch further comprises an opening proximate the first end, the opening permitting access to the interior of the pouch.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least two of the sections are generally identical.

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6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pouch comprises at least one sheet of moisture-impervious material.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the continuous length product has a length at least two times the pouch length.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a compression device proximate the opening.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the compression device is located on an exterior of the pouch.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the compression device comprises two opposing and compressible members biased towards one another.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each compression member comprises a foam pad.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the compression device is adapted to substantially conform the shape of the pouch to the shape of the product.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a sealing device proximate the opening.

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14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pouch comprises a pouch width measured transversely to the pouch length, wherein the pouch width is substantially constant along the pouch length.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least two sections each comprise only two folds and one segment therebetween.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the at least two sections each form an S-shape.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least two sections each comprise three segments, each of the segments being bounded at both ends by folds.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein at least two of the three segments are substantially equal in length.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein each of the three segments are substantially equal in length.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein each section comprises at least four folds.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the at least two sections each form a mushroom-shape.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a suspension member.

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23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the suspension member is located proximate the second end.

24. (Cancelled)

25. – 27. (Cancelled)

28. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. – 37. (Cancelled)

38. – 42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. – 46. (Cancelled)

47. – 60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a pouch comprising a first end, a second end, and a pouch length extending therebetween, wherein the pouch further defines an interior; and

a moisture-curable orthopedic splinting/casting product having a continuous length, the product being folded into a packaged configuration comprising a plurality of sections arranged within the interior and along the pouch length, each section comprising at least two folds and a segment spanning therebetween, the segment also extending along the pouch length.

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62. (Cancelled)

63. (New) An apparatus for storing and dispensing a continuous length of product, the apparatus comprising:

a pouch comprising an interior for receiving and storing a continuous length of moisture-sensitive product, wherein the pouch further comprises a first end and an opening proximate the first end, the opening permitting access to the product within the interior of the pouch;

a parallel closure sealing device adapted to substantially seal the opening; and

a compression device adapted to couple to the pouch proximate the first end, the compression device comprising a first compression member and a second, opposing compression member, the compression members adapted to substantially conform the shape of the first end of the pouch to the shape of the product.

64. (New) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the parallel closure device comprises a male member and a female member, the female member adapted to receive the male member such that the pouch is trapped therebetween.

65. (New) An apparatus for storing and dispensing a continuous length of product, the apparatus comprising:

a pouch comprising an interior for receiving and storing a continuous length of moisture-sensitive product, wherein the pouch further comprises a first end;

a suspension member coupled to the pouch; and

a compression device adapted to couple to the pouch proximate the first end, the compression device comprising a first compression member and a second, opposing compression member, the compression members adapted to substantially conform the shape of the first end of the pouch to the shape of the product.

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66. (New) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein the suspension member is located proximate a second end of the pouch.

67. (New) An apparatus for storing and dispensing a continuous length of product, the apparatus comprising:

a pouch comprising an interior for receiving and storing a continuous length of moisture-sensitive product, wherein the pouch further comprises a first end and an opening proximate the first end, the opening permitting access to the product within the interior of the pouch; and

a compression device adapted to couple to the pouch proximate the first end, the compression device comprising a first compression member and a second, opposing compression member, the compression members adapted to substantially conform the shape of the first end of the pouch to the shape of the product as the product is dispensed from the pouch through the opening.

68. (New) A closure apparatus for use with products stored within a flexible pouch, the apparatus comprising:

a compression device comprising two opposing compression members;

a sealing device operatively coupled to the compression device, the sealing device comprising opposing sealing members wherein the sealing members are selectively movable between an open position and a closed position; and

a frame assembly operatively coupling the compression device to the sealing device.